

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7-10 and 13-18 and new claims 19-21 appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the thin dense layer is made from a material selected from the group consisting of polyureas, epoxies and silicones. Support for the amended element is found in the Specification, on page 12, lines 6-26. Claim 10 has been amended to recite that the thin dense layer has a specific gravity of greater than 2.0 g/cm^3 . Support for the amended element is found in the Specification, on page 11, lines 15-16. New claims 19-21 have been added to more particularly claim the present invention. Support for these claims may be found in the specification at least at page 11, lines 15-26, and page 12, lines 11-13. No new matter has been added by these amendments and additions.

Rejection Over U.S. Patent No. 6,117,026 In View of U.S. Patent No. 5,952,415

Claims 1, 7, 10 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,117,026 to Hayashi *et al.* ("Hayashi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,952,415 to Hwang ("Hwang"). Claims 8, 9, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Hayashi, in view of Hwang, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,129,640 to Higuchi *et al.* ("Higuchi"). Hayashi, Hwang and Higuchi are generally directed to multi-piece solid golf balls.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the thin dense layer is made from a material selected from the group consisting of polyureas, epoxies and silicones. Hayashi fails to teach or suggest a thin dense layer as claimed. Moreover, the inner cover layer of Hayashi is disclosed as formed mainly of an ionomer resin, thermoplastic elastomer or a mixture thereof. (See Hayashi col. 3, lines 55-67). There is no teaching or suggestion that the inner cover layer of Hayashi be made of the materials currently claimed. Hwang fails to cure the deficiencies of Hayashi, as Hwang teaches to use ionomer resins and thermoplastics resins for the cover layers. (See Hwang, col. 3 line 58 – col. 4, line 7). There is no motivation to modify the references as claimed. Thus, amended independent claim 1 defines over the art of record. Dependent claims 7-10 and 19-20 depend from independent claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Additionally, amended independent claim 10 recites that the thin dense layer has a specific gravity of greater than 2.0 g/cm^3 . As stated by the Examiner, Hayashi and Hwang fail to

disclose or suggest a thin dense layer having a specific gravity. Additionally, Higuchi only discloses an intermediate layer having a specific gravity of 1.1 to 2.0. There is simply no teaching or suggestion in making the intermediate layer of Higuchi more dense, as it is most preferable to have the specific gravity be between 1.22 and 1.4. (See Hayashi, col. 4, lines 23-25). Thus, amended independent claim 10 defines over the art of record. Dependent claims 13-18 and 21 depend from independent claim 10 and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are believed to have been overcome for at least the above reasons. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

Conclusion

Based on the remarks set forth above, Applicant believes that all of the rejections have been overcome and the claims of the subject application are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further concerns or believe that a discussion with the Applicant's attorney would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the attorney at the number below.

A fee sheet is attached along with a petition for a one-month extension of time. Should any required fees be due, please charge them to Acushnet Company Deposit Account No. 502309.

18 Sept 06
Date

Respectfully submitted,



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